representation by means of single transferable vote, one Member from among the Members of the House to be a Member of the Committee on Official Language in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Dr. C. Narayana Reddy from the membership of Rajya Sabha on the 26th August, 2003".

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF CHAIR

Proposal to allow Hindi Language for conducting Defence Services Officers Examinations

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Defence Minister has come out with a shocking proposal that Hindi alone, among the Indian languages, will be used for conducting the Defence Services officers' examinations. There are 16 regional languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. But by conducting examinations only in Hindi, the Union Government will be discriminating against 40 crore Indians who do not know Hindi. This kind of unwarranted act of the Defence Ministry creates linguistic problems which will definitely pose a serious threat to the unity and integrity of the country.

When the same issue was raised in Lok Sabha in 1966, the then Deputy Home Minister, Shri V.C. Shukla, assured the House that in addition to English, all national languages listed in the Eighth Schedule would be introduced simultaneously as medium for UPSC and other examination. Now that assurance has been violated. Again, the Government is trying to impose Hindi for conducting the Defence Services examinations.

The action of the Defence Minister, Shri George Fernandes will create social tension, which is avoidable. The people of Tamil Nadu, cutting across party lines, will resist any move to impose Hindi like this. On behalf of the 40 crore non-Hindi speaking Indians, I demand that the Defence Minister should roll back the proposal of conducting the examination only in Hindi and introduce all the Indian languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution to be the medium for conducting the examination. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, would you like to responds?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Sir, I would like to respond to it. Sir, the Standing Committee on Defence, in its meeting on 28th and 29th March, 2001 raised the issue of Hindi and regional languages. The Standing Committee on defence met on 22nd February, 2002 and adopted the Action Taken Report of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2001-02. In its 15th Report which was Tabled in the Lok Sabha on 20th May, 2002, and in the Rajya Sabha on 21st May, 2002, the Committee had recommended at para 26 and I quote: "The matter relating to the medium of entrance examination in Defence Forces will be examined thoroughly due to the sensitivity of the subject to arrive at a consensus, keeping in view the need to attract talented youths from the rural areas to the Armed Forces." In its recommendation at Sr. No. 1 in para 2, it says, the Ministry of Defence had sent the following reply on 31st May, 02; "The matter relating to introduction of Hindi as a medium of examination for the NDA and CDS examinations has been examined thoroughly in this Ministry. The case for introducing Hindi as an optional medium was taken up with the Department of Personnel and Training which is the nodal Department on this subject. They have not agreed to this proposal for want of a consensus. However, it has been recently informed by the Army Headquarters that despite English being the only medium for these examinations, a large number of youth from rural areas are qualifying in these examinations. The use of Hindi at the Defence Services Officers' Examination was finalised by the Department of Personnel and Training on 29th September, 03. It was decided by the Department of Personnel and Training to print question papers of General Knowledge and Mathematics of the Defence Services, the National Defence Academies and the Naval Academy examinations conducted by the UPSC bilingually. The Department of Personnel and Training has also intimated that this decision will be implemented from the next examination. So, it is not the Ministry of Defence...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already drawn its attention and the Government has responded to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I have already given a notice. Please give me permission...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has already responded ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the severe cyclone that has affected the South. ...*(Interruptions)*

श्री रूमान्डला रामचन्द्रय्या (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): उनके बारे में बात करनी है। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir....

श्री सभापति: मैं इस पर अलाऊ नहीं करूंगा, चन्द्रशेखर रेड्डी। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Kindly allow me ...*(Interruptions)*

श्री सभापति: एक मिनट बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chandra Sekar Reddy. ...*(Interruptions)*

श्री एस॰एस॰ अहलुवालिया (झारखंड): इस सदन के एक मैम्बर है ...(व्यवधान)... सर यह इस सदन के एक मैम्बर का सवाल है। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALIA VIRUMBI: Sir, you allow me for two minutes. I had submitted a Special Mention ten days back. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I won't allow ...*(Interruptions)* The matter is closed ...*(Interruptions)* Nothing will go on record ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Chandra Sekar Reddy ...*(Interruptions)* If you want to speak about the cyclone ...*(Interruptions)* . Mr. Virumbi, please take your seat ...*(Interruptions)* Nothing will go on record if you all stand up and speak. Please sit down ...*(Interruptions)* आप बैठिए तो सही ...(व्यवधान)... आप बैठिए मैं अलाऊ करूंगा ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: ...he had informed me that this had been referred to the Defence department; then, he will respond to the House. After the Defence department has actually responded....

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want to say now?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: I am asking, Sir, why you have not allowed me to make my Special Mention. I had given notice for two issues, one regarding the Defence department; he has given the reply, From the reply...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak, but...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Please allow me. It is a sensitive issue. Please allow me. From the reply given by the hon. Defence Minister, it is clear that those who know only Hindi, and do not have the knowledge of English language, can join the Defence forces. If such people become officers, how will the non-Hindi-speaking people, who will have to work under them, Sill work? Therefore, it is discrimination, if you are not allowed to write the examination for Defence forces in all the official languages of the States.

Secondly, it was regarding the Railways. He has not responded to it. The Railway department has issued a circular in which they have clearly stated that the public sector undertakings functioning under the Railway Ministry have to give fifty per cent of their notices only in Hindi. This is arbitrary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is another issue. (*Interruptions*). Please, Mr. Virumbi. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: It is arbitrary. We totally oppose the circular. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is right. You can do whatever you like. (*Interruptions*) You can do whatever you like. I have no objection. (*Interruptions*) You can do whatever you like. But please take your seat. (*Interruptions*) Chandra Sekar Reddy. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Our language should also take this place as Hindi takes this place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: This is discrimination. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. (*Interruptions*) Chandra Sekar Reddy. (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. Nobody will speak on this issue. (*Interruptions*) The Minister has responded to your request. Nothing else. Only Mr. Reddy will speak. (*Interruptions*) Nothing will go on record except Mr. Reddy. (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. I have cooperated with you. (*Interruptions*) You had given me the assurance that you would speak only for two minutes. You had taken ten minutes. (*Interruptions*) There is also the matter of cyclone. (*Interruptions*) Nothing will go on record. (*Interruptions*) Nothing will go on record. Why are you speaking? (*Interuptions*) Please take your seats. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Virumbi, this is

enough. (*Interruptions*) I can tell you this is enough. चन्द्रशेखर रेड्डी जी, आप बोलिये। (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. (*Interruptions*) It means, Mr. Virumbi, that if you are... (*Interruptions*) Please take your seats. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, normally, during Special Mentions, the Ministers do not respond immediately. They have responded because of your directions. (*Interruptions*)

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): This is not a Special Mention.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, my only plea is that the matter is very sensitive. Let us not make it a South or North debate. It is an issue concerning the entire country.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Your Government is making it. (*Interuptions*)

Shri M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Narayana Samy, please ...(*Interruptions*)...No, no. this issue has been hanging fire since Independence. Let us not go into that. My point is very simple. Sir, it was first English, a language which was not known to the common people of India. We should all agree on that.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: I will not agree on this. (*Interruptions*) For us, Hindi is more alien than English. (*Interruptions*) Why should I agree on that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Virumbi, please take your seat. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, I will be directed by the Chair, not by you. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Ahluwalia, I am sorry to say that this is not a proper thing. (*Interruptions*) Sir, we expect directions from you, not from any other Member.

श्री सभापति: आप बैठिए न। ...(व्यवधान)..

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, it is a burning issue. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Let us not make it a burning issue now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, let him sepak.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, my appeal to the Government is this. It is a very sensitive issue. First, first it was English; then Hindi was added; then, there is a request, suggestion and demand coming from

different States of the country that this examination should be conducted in the nationally recognised regional languages of India which are of Indian origin. Keeping that in mind, I woud only appeal to the Government to reconsider the entire issue in proper perspective. The Government should keep in view the sentiments of the people also. This is my appeal to the Government.

Secondly Sir, through you, I appeal to my other colleagues that I am also from that region. At the same time, the House should not send a message as if we are...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The Government is sending that message.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: We should send a message that we are working for the unity of the country, and all languages of India have to be given proper and due recognition. I don't want to add anything to that. My only request is, let the government reconsider this issue, if necesary, have a meeting with the political parties also to take into consideration the views of different political parties and evolve a consensus, because the Standing Committee has made some recommendations and the Government has a different view on it. So, it is a matter to be dealt with at the highest level. I would only appeal to the Minister to take up this issue with the hon. Prime Minister and then come to a meaningful and reasonable solution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Naidu. (*Interruptions*) Now, Mr. Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठिए प्लीज़ (*Interruptions*) Don't spoil the atmosphere of the House. This much I can request. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, I am just requesting you to allow me to raise the cyclone issue. (*Interruptions*)

श्री सभापति: आप आन्ध्र प्रदेश से हैं?

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Yes, Sir. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, may I make a brief statement?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This issue should be avoided now.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I would just like to clarify the

position bacause my colleague has said that the Government has to do something on this issue. This decision arises out of a recommendation made by a Parliamentary Committee. i.e., the Standing Committee on Defence. It was mooted there; it originated there. From there, it has travelled, through various channels, to us. The DOPT is the agency which has taken this decision. Therefore, from the Defence Ministry, I would like to clarify that it is not in my hands to make any kind of a correction in this. You see, we will have to take it up with the DOPT, and we shall do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They know it very well that it has come from the Standing Committee.

SHRI P.G.NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu): You have to withdraw it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: The recommendations of the Standing Committee are not mandatory. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Virumbi, please sit down. Don't test my patience.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: They have exhausted my patience. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Please see that I had allowed you to speak on this issue, but you are getting up again and again, which I won't allow.

श्री सभापति: मैंने मैम्बर्स का भरोसा करके दिया है, आप यह भरोसा खत्म कर रहे हैं। (*Interruptions*)

Request to release financial assistance to cyclone-affected areas in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI C.RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the august House and the Government to the severe cyclone that has affected the State of Andhra Pradesh. Added to this, heavy rains have totally shattered the economy of the State of Andhra Pradesh. The worst affected districts are Krishna, West Godavari and Guntur. More than forty people have died and property worth hundreds of crores of rupees has been damaged. The harvesting season has commenced but, stangely, the entire paddy crop has been damaged in the farmlands itself. Thousands of cattle have died. There is a heavy disruption of communication and the power supply has been cut off in